## ELI J. HALTERMAN

## THERE ARE MANSIONS IN YOUR EYES

I.
There are mansions in your eyes.
i can see the doors
and the hinges sing lyrics by Garfunkle
voiced by Bob Dylan
say
"Baby I want you"
but i back down the sidewalk
'cause mansions can never be full unless
they hold nothing
and girl
your eyes are overflowing.

II.

There are doves in your heart. i can hear them rustle pecking at breadcrumbs that strangers throw at them and they shouldn't be strangers but you let them in without asking their names and now they move through like they have somewhere to be that is better than where they are. and all that they leave are the breadcrumbs for pigeons who trade nothing but bird shit and the distant memory of something not beautiful yet not ugly.

## III.

There are rainbows in your ribcage. i long for them to appear after a devastating storm. gentle arches high above freeways of water where houses should be. giving victims exposed-beauty to curse as they stare at the sky to avert their gaze from the ruins of life never gained but still lost.

IV.

There are sewers in your arms. i can smell the rats as i watch the forgotten sparkle of a long-lost diamond ring that floats down the vicodin flavored river supposedly patrolled by the giant mutated pets flushed away by children who got bored with them.

V.

There are tears in your tears.

VI.

There are prisons in your fingers.
i can feel the cold bars
as i squeeze them too tightly
not daring to speak
but yelling for someone to save me
cause I am wrongly imprisoned and
serving 20 to life
all for sticking around after everyone ran
just to make sure that you would be safe.
this is a bad place
and i wanted to save you.

VII.

There are supermodels in your smile.
i know they are fake
and show only the surface
like they don't want me to know that
they hoard hostess twinkies
secretly stashed where they think
no one can see them
and i go along with the lie
just to see them walk by me
cause i love knowing
that they still want to show me
everything that they are not
and what i would never want them to be.